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PHIL BREDESEN
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MEMORANDUM

FROM: Richard G. Rhoda
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Invitation to Serve on Math Curriculum Alignment Committee of the
State P-16 Council

DATE: February 28, 2006

Your name has come forward from governing board staff, your chief academic officer, or the State Department of Education as a mathematics professional who would have much to contribute to a state-wide initiative on improving student learning in mathematics in preparation for college or career. The State P-16 Council has approved the appointment of a committee to recommend actions to achieve this goal. To date, representatives from University of Tennessee and Tennessee Board of Regents system offices and staff from the State Department of Education, State Board of Education, and Tennessee Higher Education Commission have served as a small work group to explore national movements to align high school and college mathematics curricula, successes in other states toward this end, assessment strategies, and published curricula frameworks.

I invite you to be a member of this important State P-16 Mathematics Curriculum Alignment Committee. The Committee will include mathematics faculty and teachers, representatives from colleges of education and arts and sciences, and campus academic officers along with the original core group from governing boards and agencies. We believe this membership will ensure the necessary collaboration between secondary and post-secondary to take us in the right directions.

The Committee will meet in Nashville at the THEC office with conference call capability for those who chose not to travel. The Committee will meet about every two months, so we would ask you to set aside time for two-hour meetings and preparation for these meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2006, from 9:30-11:30 am (CST), in the THEC 18th floor conference room (Parkway Towers, 404 James Robertson Parkway). The agenda for the March 23 meeting will include a conversation with the chief academic officer of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Council regarding the process Kentucky followed to adopt statewide changes in mathematics standards. The working group has had a similar conversation with

University of North Carolina System staff, and future consultations are planned with policy board representatives from Oklahoma, Ohio, Arkansas, and Indiana, other states that have made recent changes in high school graduation requirements. Also on March 23, ACT will provide an overview of the ACT Standards for Student Readiness and ACT Benchmarks.

I hope you will accept this invitation to be part of the initiative. Dr. Linda Doran, THEC Senior Policy Officer chairs the Curriculum Alignment Committee; please contact her directly (Linda.Doran@state.tn.us; 615-741-6289) with your decision.

cc: Gary Nixon, Executive Director, State Board of Education
Lana Seivers, Commissioner of Education
John W. Scott, Assistant Commissioner
Paula Myrick Short, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, TBR
Katie High, Associate Vice President for Student Life, UT System
Deborah Boyd, Exec. Director, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, SDE